Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EB-08 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00

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O R 250900Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0246 INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS BRAZZAVILLE 0196

ALSO FOR DEPT AF/C - KATZEN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: DEL SOL ACCIDENT POINTE NOICE

REF: (A) BRAZZAVILLE 0178, (B) BRAZZAVILLE 0187, (C) STATE 046069

- 1. CHARGE MET 24 FEBRUARY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MANUCONGO, ATC, AND MASTER DEL SOL TO DISCUSS FORMULA FOR AND SUBSTANCE OF REQUESTED DEPOSIT OF CFA 120,000,000.
- 2. ATC AT PAINS TO CLARIFY THAT THE SUM OF CFA 120,000,000 IS NOT A SUM REQUIRED AS SETTLEMENT OF THEIR CLAIM NOR A SUM WHICH IS TO BE FORFEITED. IT IS A DEPOSIT ONLY WHICH GUARANTEES THAT FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WHATEVER FINAL FIGURE IS ARBITRATED, NEGOTIATED, OR SET BY JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND ANY AMOUNT OF THE DEPOSIT WHICH IS IN EXCESS OF THE FINAL SETTLEMENT FIGURE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REFUNDED.
- 3. THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT IS NOT A NEGOTIABLE AMOUNT. THE FINAL SETTLEMENT IS NEGOTIABLE OR FAILING NEGOTIATIONS SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL DECISION.
- 4. IF DELTA LINES DOES NOT ACCEPT TO MAKE THE REQUIRED DEPOSITY, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AMOUNT OF THE DEPOSIT WILL BECOME SUBJECT TO LITIGATION AND WILL, IF LITIGATION OCCURS, BE SET BY THE COURTS. LOCAL COURTS WILL HAVE JURISDICTION IN ANY LITIGATION.

5. UNTIL THE DEPOSIT OF CFA 120,000,000 ALREADY REQUESTED, OR A DEPOSIT SUM SET AS A RESULT OF LITIGATION IS MADE, THE DEL SOL MUST REMAIN IN POINTE NOIRE HARBOR.

6. THE DEL SOL WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED UPON NOTIFICATION THAT FUNDS EQUAL TO THE REQUESTED OR JURIDICALLY DETERMINED AMOUNT ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING TRANSFERRED. THE ATC AGREES THAT THE DEPOSIT MAY BE MADE TO A COMMERCIAL BANK RATHER THAN TO THE TRESORIER PAYEUR GENERAL EN REPUBLIQUE POPULAIR DU CONGO AND THAT IT MAY BE DEPOSITED TO A JOINT ACCOUNT HELD BY ATC AND DELTA LINES LOCAL AGENT MANUCONGO FROM WHICH NEITHER PARTY MAY WITHDRAW FUNDS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE OTHER.

7. THE ATC WILL NOT ACCEPT GUARANTEES DIRECTLY FROM DELTA LINES NOR ITS UNDERWRITERS, BUT ONLY FROM AN AUTHORIZED DELTA LINES REPRESENTATIVE HAVING ASSETS IN THE CONGO.

8. THE AMOUNT OF THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT HAS BEEN ARRIVED AT AS FOLLOWS: VALUE OF TUG PLUS SALVAGE/REPAIR COSTS PLUS ANTICIPATED LOSS OF REVENUE RESULTING FROM DOWN TIME OF TUG.

9. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO ATC THAT THEY EXPECTED DELTA LINES TO ACCEPT THEIR GUARANTEE OF REPAYMENT OF ANY EXCESS DEPOSIT WHILE THEY REFUSED TO ACCEPT DEPTA LINES GUARANTEE THAT IT WOULD MEET ANY JUST AND LEGAL DEBT. THE ATC MAINTAINED THAT, AS THE INJURED PARTY, THIS WAS THEIR RIGHT.

10. WHILE IN MEETING RECEIVED INFO THAT DELTA LINES REPRESENTATIVE TO ARRIVE SOON. CONVEYED THIS TO ATC WHO REQUESTED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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DELTA LINES UNDERWRITERS ACCOMPANY DELTA LINES REP.

11. FYI - ATC HAS EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPOSIT HAS DELIBERATELY BEEN SET HIGH TO ENCOURAGE DELTA LINES AND ITS UNDERWRITERS TO COME TO A RAPID FINAL SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL REDRESS JUSTLY ALL GRIEVANCES AND AT SAME TIME EFFECT QUICK REFUND OF ANY EXCESS DEPOSIT. ATC HAS USED THIS PROCEDURE IN PAST IN CASE WITH ANOTHER SHIPPING LINE AND CHARGE SATISFIED THAT DEL SOL INCIDENT NOT BEING HANDLED IN EXCEPTIONAL WAY OR WITH UNIQUE PREJUDICE.

12. PLEASE PASS ABOVE TO DELTA LINES. ABOVE HAS BEEN SHOWN IN ENTIRETY TO ATC REP M. FERAUD WHO SUBSTANTIATED CONTENTS. BAILEY

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Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014

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